

Minutes: Board of Education
Committee on the Standards of Quality
Date: February 26, 2003
Location: 12 p.m., Senate Room B
General Assembly Building

The agenda included the following items:

- Elementary principals;
- Assistant principals;
- Reading specialists;
- Early Intervention Reading Initiative;
- Elementary resource teachers in art, music, and physical education;
- Grades K-3 class size and pupil-teacher ratios;
- Grades 4-12 class size and pupil-teacher ratios; and
- Technology staffing and support.

The committee deliberated on the following issues:

- Half-time principals in elementary schools with fewer than 300 students;
- The number of assistant principals needed at the elementary, middle, and high school level;
- Pupil-teacher ratios and maximum class sizes, focusing on increasing the number of instructional positions per 1,000 students, rather than changing the division-wide average pupil-teacher ratios and maximum class sizes;
- Inclusion of reading specialists and resource teachers in art, music, and physical education in the required number of instructional positions per 1,000 students; and
- Whether or not the Early Intervention Reading Initiative and the Primary Class Size Reduction Initiative should be incorporated into the SOQ.

The committee asked for additional information on the following issues at the next meeting:

- Technology staffing guidelines;
- The role of regional resource programs in addressing technology staffing and support needs;
- Staffing requirements for school nurses; and
- Requirements in the SOQ for the evaluation of instructional positions.

Later this spring, the committee will examine the budgetary impact of the recommendations it is considering. In view of the significant budgetary impact of some of the possible recommendations, the committee expects to set priorities on its recommendations, and to consider phasing in the recommendations incrementally.

The committee plans to meet again on March 26, immediately after the full Board of Education meeting. The committee plans to devote the majority of the time spent at the Board of Education spring planning session, April 29-May 1, deliberating on proposed revisions to the Standards of Quality.